

Remarks

This paper supplements the Response to Office Action mailed July 11, 2006. Claims 1-2, 6-21 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18 and 21 are presently amended in the manner discussed at the interview of August 1, 2006. Claim 4 and 5 have been canceled. New claims 24 - 27 have been added. Support for the amendments is throughout the application. No new matter has been added. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-2, 6-21 and 24-27 are now in condition for allowance.

As discussed at the August 1, 2006 interview, the claims as amended are considered to overcome the cited prior art. The claims have now been amended to more clearly define the photonic band gap structure as being characterized by a band gap for detecting predetermined materials in a sample, which interact with the conjugated polymer molecules to generate fluorescent signals within the band gap, where the wavelength of the excitation light is outside the band gap. As discussed at the interview, this feature is believed to be patentably distinct from the cited art. Accordingly, there now is no proper basis for the outstanding rejection. All claims 1, 2, 6-21 and 24-27 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

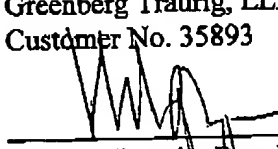
Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants assert that Claims 1-2, 6-21 and 24-37 are now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that a telephone conference with the Applicants' attorney would further the prosecution of the application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

If additional fees are required, or otherwise necessary to cover any deficiency in fees already paid, authorization is hereby given to charge our deposit account no. 50-2678.

Respectfully submitted,
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